

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace paragraph [0050] of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] While probably not necessary, once the percutaneous incisions 62a-f are formed, blunt finger dissection can optionally be used, as shown in FIG. 5A-5B, to separate the longissimus thoracis LT and multifidus muscles M, thereby exposing the facet and the junction of the transverse process and superior articular process.